

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11-18 are pending in the present application.

The invention claimed differs from Abbott et al (U.S. 6,277,489) because the present invention links organic material to the surface of a carrier material (aluminum oxide, silver oxide, or aluminum oxide with silver oxide) whereas Abbott describes linking an organic material to an intermediate metal film (gold) that resides on the surface of a carrier material (silica) (column 61, claim 1, lines 45-52). Therefore, the claims are not anticipated by the Abbott and Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Furthermore, the claims would not have been obvious in view of Abbott because the intermediate metal film is essential and Abbott provides no reason to remove it. Throughout the entire specification, Abbott includes a metal film to link the organic material to the carrier material and in every example of Abbott an intermediate metal film is included, which is gold. In fact, Abbott state that linking organic material, without an intervening metal film, to the surface of the carrier material should not be done because of cost issues associated with gold particles and their unsuitability for packing into columns (see column 2, lines 60-67 of Abbott). For these reasons, the claims would not have been obvious in view of Abbott. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C 103 (a) rejection of claims 1-4 and 10 is requested.

Barkatt (U.S. 4,648,975) and Matsushita (U.S. 4,341,634), like Abbott, but unlike the claimed invention, both employ a carrier material covered with a metal film. Barkatt employs the metal film to retard carrier material (silica) dissolution (column 6, lines 45-56). The pending claims do not employ silica as a carrier

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material. Further, Barkett and Matsushita do not describe a fatty acid having 1 to 40 carbon atoms linked to the surface of the carrier material. Thus, the claims would not have been obvious in view of Abbott combined with Barkatt or Matsushita.

Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 2-4 is requested.

The objection to claims 6, 8, and 9 has been addressed by amendment.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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